Athletic Council
September 8, 2023

Attending: Tim Mitchell, Doug Martini, Kirsten Kay, Ed Ward, Sid Ferreira, Nancy Buffone, Rod Warnick, Amanda Knight, Jana Drummond (guest), Kirsten Britton, Ryan Bamford, Anthony Rosati (guest), Maria Vega (guest), Linda Griffin (co-chair), Diane Barstow (co-chair)

0. **Report of the Nominating Committee**
   Reappointment of Diane and Linda as co-chairs

1. **Introductions**

2. **Review and approval of April minutes**

3. **Guest speaker: Anthony Rosati (Director for Facilities, Operations, and Events)**
   Events: hosted A10 track championship in 23; we host men's lax this year;

   Facilities: Boyden weight room renovation, adding Boyden locker rooms (soccers, rowing, mens lax expansion); resurfaced track and tennis courts, baseball field; completed luxury box in Mullins (will have two in the future); study on Garber on turning it into a true stadium (make the hillside tiered and useable with VIP area and pressbox), softball/track/softball study (add facilities/lights to host championships). Study on Boyden pool; study of HVAC for ice practice facility and Mullins; moving forward with Cage renovations – did fundraising

   Q&A: Staffing? Did some recent hires and are in pretty good shape; Fundraising for Cage? Completed, pledges go out 5 years; Geothermal work? Possibly something that we can connect the HVAC project to; being mindful of this, can increase costs, but staying aligned.

4. **Guest speaker: Jana Drummond (Head coach, Women's Lax)**
   Background: 2nd year as head coach, 7th year here. Last year was phenomenal. Both of her assistants from last year moved on to new positions, now working with 2 new assistants. Went 16-3 last year, undefeated in the conference until conference tournament. A10 defender of the year and attacker of the year are both back. Top drawer in the country coming back as well. Lost some good people (3 are now coaching) but also gained a few good transfers. 8 freshman are strong as well. Amy Moreau is in the pro-league this summer (first from our program to join Athletes Unlimited). A handful are also on their national teams (Canada, Ireland, Puerto Rico). Hosting Kendra's

Kindness tournament (fundraiser) and a few play days this fall against teams they don't usually see in the spring. Also rule changes this year (more penalties, more man down scenarios, likely to slow the game down; game is getting more physical). Rules are also new for freshman as collegiate is so different.

Q&A: Out of conference games – yes, we get them, good to see BC, helps get the NCAA bid;

5. **Guest speaker: Maria Vega (Director of Student-Athlete Development)**
   In year 2, oversees student-athlete organizations. Black Student Athletes United, etc, these create community and value. Our Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) group is bigger than in the past (58 reps). Leadership Academy: cohorts are sophomores representing different teams, go over effective communication, have a leadership retreat. Doing exit interviews: reaching out earlier at the end of the season. Will get fall athletes on schedules at the end of the fall semester.

6. **Athletic Director's update (Ryan Bamford)**
   The big change is in the conference landscape – the dissolve of the Pac-12 likely will be impactful throughout college athletics. The past has been about keeping league schools regional but within A10, we are becoming less like the A10 schools (only one with football, hockey, big state school, etc) so we are looking at what is happening and whether there will be an opportunity for us. Change is inevitable and we will see how it pans out.

   Busy fundraising – record high of $8.5 million – for the projects Anthony talked about. Retired all deficit and start this year at 0. Went from $34 to $45 million budget in the past 10 years. Goal this year is to raise $10 million. University is in a silent phase of fundraising and Athletics is already half way to their goal ($30 of $50 million).

   76% of student-athletes have a GPA >3.0. This speaks to who we are recruiting and our athletic support staff.

   NIL deals – about 100 deals currently;

7. **Sub-committee assignments**
   Be on the lookout for subcommittee signups

8. **Old business/New business**